

It is my understanding that "We The People"... citizens of the USA... own the airwaves that broadcasters use free of charge. And that for the right to use those airwaves, the broadcasters are obligated by law to serve the public interest.

In the case of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to run a very partisan documentary so close to an election, I find it very hard to see how the public interest is being served.

Maybe if they followed one partisan documentary with another from the opposing side then fairness might be claimed. But when this broadcaster forbids its affiliates from showing Ted Koppels tribute to the fallen soldiers in Iraq because it was deemed to be political, or when Michael Moore can not buy commercial air time to promote his political film "Fahrenheit 911", yet the affiliates are required to pre-empt their regular programming to air a right wing attack film 2 weeks before the presidential election, a reasonable person could be concerned that our democracy might be endangered.

We depend on our government watchdogs to protect us from those who would take advantage of our freedoms, and to protect the public trust in our free press. But with the consolidation of media giants, who have agendas to promote, how good are our current checks and balances?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to have substance and the renewal of licenses be earned.

Please take action and protect our airways for the great people of the United States of America. Please become the watchdog for the people and not the lap dog of the media giants.

Thank you.